

Appl. No. 29/746,013  
Amdt. dated November 16, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2004

Remarks:

On entry of these amendments, claims 1 to 27 are pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 18 to 25 as being indefinite. Claim 18 has been amended to clarify that the instructions are stored on the computer readable medium. Support for the amendment can be found on page 9 lines 9 to 11 and 14 to 16.

The Examiner also rejected all of the claims as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,347,336 to Song et al. ("Song"). The Examiner is of the view that the claimed invention only differ from Song by a degree. Each of the independent claims 1, 11, 18 and 26 has been amended. Support for amended claims 1, 11, 18 and 26 can be found in the specification as filed at least in the following sections: page 8 lines 14 to 18; page 11 lines 13 to 14; page 11 line 27 to page 12 line 3; page 12 lines 3 to 9 and 13 to 14; page 12 line 25 to page 13 line 2; page 14 lines 14 to 18 and lines 20 to 24; page 15 lines 3 to 4 and lines 15 to 22; page 16 lines 14 to 18.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims 1, 11, 18 and 26 are not obvious over Song for the reasons given below.

Amended claims 1, 18 and 26 each recites collecting from each one of a plurality of NEs data relating to communication with one or more other NEs maintained by the NE and identifying, based on the collected data, NEs which, together with optical fibers therebetween, form an optical link.

Similarly, amended claim 11 recites receiving, over a network, from each one of a plurality of network elements (NEs) identification information identifying the NE and one or more other NEs with which the NE communicates; and correlating the identification information to identify NEs communicating over an optical link.

By contrast, Song does not teach collecting data relating to communication, or receiving identification information, from each one of the plurality of NEs. Song discloses a method for automatic discovery and positioning of network elements (NEs), wherein a star topology is used to represent network configurations and each optical network unit in a management system is given a position in the star topology. The position of each NE is

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determined from its configuration identification information. See for example, the Abstract of Song. In the method disclosed by Song, the management system assigns identification number and position information to each network element, and the identification information is stored in a management system database (see e.g. col. 4 ll. 25-31). However, Song does not disclose *how* the management system *assigns* identification information and there is no teaching of collecting, or receiving, from each one of the plurality of NEs data relating to communication with one or more other NEs, or identification information, for identifying NEs that form an optical link.

Therefore, it is submitted that current independent claims (1, 11, 18 and 26) and all of their dependent claims (claims 2 to 10, 12 to 17, 19 to 25, and 27) are patently distinct from Song and are allowable over the references of record.

Claims 1 to 9, 11 to 14, 16 to 19, 21 to 24, 26 and 27 have also been amended for clarity, consistency and to correct several clerical errors.

The Description and Figure 7 have been amended to correct a number of clerical errors.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

In view of the foregoing, early favorable consideration of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures

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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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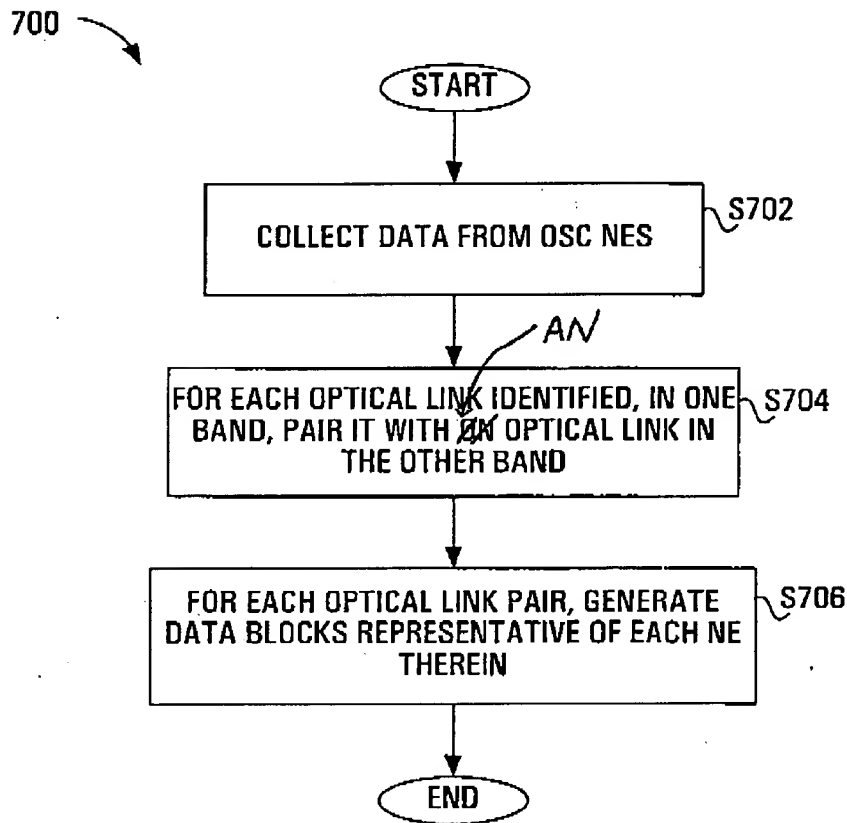


FIG. 7